

# Environmental REGISTRATION

## *Automotive Refinishing*

The Ministry of the Environment is transforming its environmental approvals program. It has worked closely with business, industry and other stakeholders to develop a registration process for standard and routine-type activities and sectors — including certain automotive refinishing facilities.

Businesses will be able to register their activities in the **Environmental Activity and Sector Registry (EASR)**. Key features include:

- flexibility to operate a facility within pre-established parameters
- online self-registration
- an online searchable database of registered activities.

### What is an automotive refinishing facility?

For the purpose of registering on the EASR, an automotive refinishing facility is a business that:

- applies coatings on all or part of a motor vehicle body, or
- repairs or customizes all or part of a motor vehicle body or the interior of a motor vehicle.

### How do I know if my facility is eligible for the Environmental Activity and Sector Registry (EASR)?

You can register your automotive refinishing facility if it meets certain eligibility requirements. These are detailed in Ontario Regulation 245/11 (O. Reg. 245/11) under the Environmental Protection Act. Elements that determine your eligibility are summarized as follows:

- a.** the number of spray booths and rate at which coatings are used. These limits depend on whether the facility occupies all or part of a building.

For facilities that occupy all of a building, the facility must:

- have at least one and no more than three spray booths, and
- spray no more than six litres of coating in total per hour.

For facilities in a building that contains more than one unit, e.g., multi-tenant buildings, the facility must have:

- only one spray booth, and
- spray no more than two litres of coating per hour.

- b.** distances between the facility's exhaust stacks and property lines, and distances between the facility's exhaust stacks or outdoor fans and neighbours (anyone who might be affected by noise from the facility). This distance is called a setback. The minimum setback for your facility depends on:

- the number of spray booths
- whether exhaust fans are located indoors or outdoors
- on the amount of coating applied per hour
- the use of acoustic barriers.

- c.** waste water management. Waste water must be managed appropriately, e.g., by ensuring it goes to a municipal sanitary sewer.

- d. permits issued by the Niagara Escapement Planning Area (if they were issued). Permit conditions must not conflict with any requirements of the EASR.

Your facility must meet **all** of these requirements in order to be registered.

In some cases, you may not need to register your facility. Examples are detailed in section 19(4) of O. Reg. 245/11. In other cases, you may require an Environmental Compliance Approval and/or other approvals.

## Do I need to register if I have a Certificate of Approval (CofA) that covers my facility?

Existing approvals for activities that are eligible for the registry will still be valid and you will not immediately need to register them.

You **will** need to register an eligible activity that is currently covered by a CofA in the following circumstances:

- when you need to make a change to the activity that would have otherwise required an amendment to the approval, or
- by the date prescribed in the regulation stating when the CofA for an activity expires. (For automotive refinishing facilities this date is October 31, 2016 — **five years** from the date the regulation comes into force.)

Once you register your activities, your existing CofA will only apply to activities you did not register.

## How do I register?

As of **October 31, 2011** you can self-register online at **[www.serviceontario.ca](http://www.serviceontario.ca)**

## What happens after I register?

You will need to make sure:

- your facility continues to meet registration requirements

- your registration remains up-to-date
- you confirm **yearly** that the information in your registration is complete and accurate.
- your facility meets the operating requirements set out in O. Reg. 245/11 and summarized below. These relate to:
  - a. the use, operation and maintenance of specified equipment at the facility
  - b. the type of coatings used
  - c. the exhaust stack configuration
  - d. hours that coatings can be applied and specified fans used
  - e. the efficiency of spray equipment and filters
  - f. training
  - g. record keeping.

If you register a facility that had a Certificate of Approval (CofA) then your facility will not be subject to some of the exhaust stack requirements **provided** no changes have been made to the exhaust stack(s) since the approval was issued. This is allowed because the facility was reviewed when the CofA was issued.

## How will the Ministry of the Environment support compliance?

We will continue to act to protect the environment, as we have always done, by:

- providing guidance
- checking that your activities meet registration and operating requirements
- when needed, taking steps to bring facilities into compliance.

## Where can I get more information?

Visit: **[www.ontario.ca/environmentalapprovals](http://www.ontario.ca/environmentalapprovals)**

Call: **1-800-461-6290 or 416-314-8001**

*Disclaimer: If any differences exist between this document and the legislation and regulation then the legislation and regulation prevail.*